



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ's updated disaster debris management plan available online

BATON ROUGE – With hurricane season upon us, the Department of Environmental Quality is reminding local governments and communities of the importance of a debris management plan. In order to make debris management more efficient, the department has updated its debris management plan and made the debris site application form available at www.deq.louisiana.gov.

“In keeping with the Governor’s theme of ‘Get a Game Plan,’ we at DEQ are working with local communities to ensure they have a debris management plan in place before an emergency arises,” said DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett. “We saw the benefits of preparedness during Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, but are striving to make cleanup more efficient and easier for local governments.”

DEQ is urging community leaders to be prepared ahead of time. A debris management plan can help reduce cleanup costs, increase recovery speed, minimize the impact upon public health and the environment, and make the federal reimbursement process much easier.

The plan has several key themes, such as the importance of waste reduction and recycling, approving and activating pre-approved sites and how to proceed with debris management in a way that facilitates federal reimbursement.

The goal of the plan is to streamline and expedite disaster cleanup, while still adhering to the protection of human health and the environment. While it has been amended several times since its inception after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the plan will continue to be reviewed and updated as new challenges arise.